

November 19, 1999

Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner
FDA (HFE-88)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

1104 '99 NOV 30 P1 54

RE: Docket No. 99N-4282

Dear Commissioner Henney;

I am very concerned that I am eating genetically engineered foods without being told that fact. I am sending you this letter to insist that the FDA require **genetically** engineered foods to be **labeled** as such, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in processed foods. **And I believe the biotechnology industry who is responsible for this assault on our food supply should be responsible for the labeling of it!**

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled, even though public opinion polls show a vast majority of Americans want them labeled. In **January, 81 percent of those surveyed told Time magazine they want labels on genetically modified foods.**

Labeling is important for a number of reasons. People who have **food allergies may be** at risk if they eat foods that contain genes from other foods to which they are allergic. People with certain ethical or religious **beliefs** worry about inadvertently **eating** genes from foods they would not knowingly consume. And many people are worried about other **health and environmental issues.**

Varieties of potatoes and corn, for example, are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin (**Bacillus thurmgensis**). The Bt toxin stays in the cell **structure** of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects, We are being told these foods are safe for **human** consumption, but we have heard that before about **DDT** and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. **And** recently, Cornell University scientists discovered that Bt may be deadly to Monarch butterflies.

I do not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to eat "Roundup Ready" soybeans or other future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to require labeling of all genetically engineered foods. Labeling already is required in Europe **and** Australia.

Please write back to me and let me know if you intend to work to pass this legislation. Thank you!


Sincerely,

Mary Cuchna

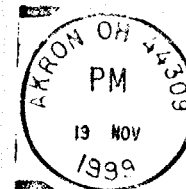
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